



# 4-H AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



In this project, youth learn American Sign Language (ASL), the fourth most commonly used language in the United States. Nationally, more than 15 million people have a hearing impairment and nearly 2 million are considered deaf. 4-H youth will learn that deafness is not simply a physical limitation in hearing ability, but has cultural aspects too.

- Learn how to “talk” with their hands and “listen” with their eyes using ASL.
- Explore the language, culture and history of the Deaf community.
- Interact with the Deaf community by learning the basics of ASL.

## 4-H Thrive!

### Help Youth:

#### Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find what it is about American Sign Language that excites them.

#### Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

#### Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you’re having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

#### Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for ASL to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contributions in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

#### Starting Out *Beginner*

- Recognize and produce each letter of the American Manual Alphabet.
- Fingerspell a variety of names or titles.
- Know the common handshapes used in ASL.
- Sign the 4-H Pledge.
- Learn the signs for common words and phrases.
- Recognize and sign numbers 1-10 in ASL.
- Learn to sign phrases you would use in a store (what is the price? Is it on sale?)

#### Learning More *Intermediate*

- Research the life of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.
- Recognize and sign food-related words.
- Learn to sign a song and present your song at a club or community event.
- Recognize and sign a variety of animals.
- Learn how to sign time concepts such as past, yesterday, today, future and tomorrow.
- Recognize and practice appropriate nonmanual markers.

#### Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Use ASL to tell a personal story.
- Job shadow a professional ASL translator.
- Change the meaning of signs by modifying the way you sign them .
- For one meeting, agree to only use ASL to communicate.
- Compare and contrast mainstream programs and special programs for Deaf children.
- Learn to ask for and give directions using ASL.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

*Light Your Spark*

*Flex Your Brain*

*Reach Your Goals*

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# Expand Your Experiences!

## Citizenship

- Identify an organization in your state or community that advocates for the Deaf. Partner with this organization to increase community awareness about Deaf culture.
- Learn about the American Disabilities Act and survey how it influences building design in your community. Assist willing businesses in becoming more ADA compliant.

## Leadership

- Teach your 4-H community club how to sign the Pledge of Allegiance and/or the 4-H Pledge.
- Visit a preschool and read a children's book about the Deaf. Help children understand the unique abilities of Deaf individuals.
- Teach others how to fingerspell using the American Manual Alphabet.

## Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Visit an audiologist to learn more about hearing tests and how deafness is diagnosed.
- Research modern technologies that assist the Deaf and hard-of-hearing, such as TDD, TDY, cochlear implant, hearing aids and closed captioning.
- Identify and practice signing SET terms. Visit [www.shodor.org/deafstemterms](http://www.shodor.org/deafstemterms) for tutorials.

## Healthy Living

- Think about how you receive messages about health and nutrition. Identify a health message and create a plan for communicating this message to individuals with impaired hearing.
- Research the sources and decibel levels of noises around the home. Teach others about the dangers of noise and the importance of hearing protection.

## Resources

- Book: *Signing for Kids* by Mickey Flodin
- Book: *Signing Is Fun! A Child's Introduction to Signing* by Mickey Flodin
- Book: *Gallaudet Survival Guide to Signing* by Leonard G. Lane
- Signing Savvy [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com)
- American Sign Language Browser [aslbrowser.commtechlab.msu.edu](http://aslbrowser.commtechlab.msu.edu)
- American Sign Language University [www.lifeprint.com](http://www.lifeprint.com)
- Deaf Linx [www.deaflinx.com](http://www.deaflinx.com)
- ASL Info [www.aslinfo.com](http://www.aslinfo.com)
- Ohio School for the Deaf [www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org](http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org)
- Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center [www.gallaudet.edu/clerc\\_center.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center.html)
- National Association of the Deaf [www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org)

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

### Connections & Events

**Presentation Days** – Share what you've learned with others through a American Sign Language presentation of a presentation on the Deaf community and culture.

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.

### Curriculum

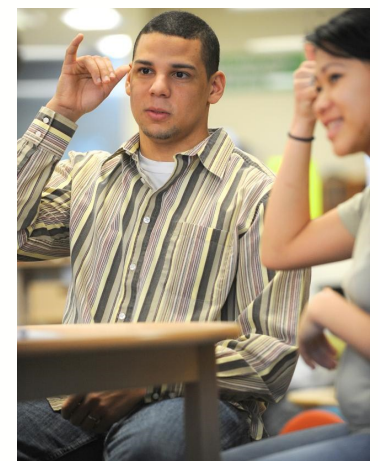
- ASL and Deaf Studies K-12 Curriculum Framework - [my.gallaudet.edu/bcswwebdav/institution/ASLCurr/index.htm](http://my.gallaudet.edu/bcswwebdav/institution/ASLCurr/index.htm)
- ASL University Lessons - [www.lifeprint.com/asl101/lessons/lessons.htm](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/lessons/lessons.htm)
- Shared Lesson Plans - [www.aslpro.com/lesson\\_plans/shared\\_lesson\\_plans.html](http://www.aslpro.com/lesson_plans/shared_lesson_plans.html) (open source)

### 4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit [www.ca4h.org/4hbook](http://www.ca4h.org/4hbook).



## University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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